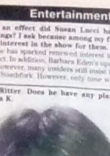
Entertainment Extra by Evelyn

Q. How much of an effect did Susan Lucci have on the drama "Dallas" and its ratings? I ask because among my friends she seemed to spark a renewed interest in the show for them. Karen M.

A. Susan's guest role has sparked renewed interest in the show, and the ratings verified that fact. In addition, Barbara Eden's upcoming appearance should do the same. However, many insiders still insist that this year will be last for the class from Stamford, CT. However, only time will tell.

Q. I adore John Ritter. Does he have any plans to return to a weekly sitcom? Edna K.



A. At the present time, John has no immediate plans of returning to a weekly series. Currently, John is concentrating on mini-series (such as his recent stint in Stephen King's "It"), along with television films and motion pictures.

Q. Is Debbie Reynolds still resentful of Elizabeth Taylor because Eddie Fisher left Debbie to marry Elizabeth? Henry J.

A. Debbie recently confided that she and Elizabeth had dinner a few years ago and laughed over the entire matter. According to Debbie, she believes Elizabeth never loved Eddie — besides she added, "Richard Burton was one of the most interesting men alive."

Q. Does Michael Jackson really sleep in an oxygen tent? Alex C. A. No!

Q. Is actor Robert Newman leaving "Guiding Light?" In addition, is he married? Erica A.

A. Mr. Newman does plan on leaving the popular soap at year's end, and the talented actor is happily married to actress Brett Hofer.

Q. Is there a Sonny and Cher reunion special in the works? Richard W.

A. No. Sonny and Cher are not the closest of friends at the moment. Besides, Sonny is too busy with his political ambitions (as reported here in an earlier column), and Cher is always busy.

Q. Is actress Eileen Heelie, who portrays Myrtle Fargate on "All My Children," leaving the show? Stella C.

A. No. In fact, Ms. Heelie's role will be expanding as she is now the new guardian of teenager Brian Bodine, portrayed by actor Gregory Gordon.

YOUR HOROSCOPE

by Charles King Cooper

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Certainly, you should enjoy pleasant times with a loved one, but be careful not to overdo. Keep in touch with distant friends. Capitalize on job opportunity. Friends and money don't mix favorably now. Minimize distractions. Utilize privacy effectively.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Don't scather your energies. Concentrate on finishing a creative project to completion. Local visits have romantic overtones. Legal matters aren't favored. Think of the long term when making purchases. Quality and durability are factors to consider.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Make important phone calls. Capitalize on creative energy. Avoid disputes about money. Seek novel entertainment. Behind-the-scenes moves benefit you financially. Be considerate of close ties. This week favors making new domestic plans.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Friends are helpful now but don't let socializing interfere with necessary work. A close tie may have unexpected good news. Be confidential about career moves. Don't mix business and pleasure. A new work or money opportunity should present itself now.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) Club activities are favored. Distant friends are supportive. Be alert for new opportunity. Watch minor disputes. Enjoy home life. You'll realize some important career objectives now, but watch impulsive money decisions. This week favors making new domestic plans.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) Close ties are helpful on a mental level, but watch minor disputes about finances. Accept an unexpected social invitation. Work toward the realization of long-term work goals. Keep peace with coworkers. You'll come up with a new way to increase income.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) Catch up on neglected household tasks. Deceptive trends prevail at a distance. This week favors dating and having good times. Social life is favored, but not spending. You have more will be true. Take time now for making new plans and improving home life.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) Don't be careless with valuables. You'll have a chance to improve your income and status in your community by visiting. Psychosomatic complaints are possible. Travel and distant interests are favored. This week may bring a new job or money opportunity.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) You may be puzzled about a child's welfare. Hold money matters in confidence. Try something different for fun now. A home situation may concern you. Social life and partnerships should provide pleasure. This week favors quiet home pastimes.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) Don't trust hearsay. Investigate matters for yourself. Initiative brings career rewards. An unexpected invitation lights up now. Be careful of valuables, especially if traveling. You'll make excellent career contacts now. Look for chances to increase income.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) Watch out for self-deception and wishful thinking. Counter a daydreaming tendency with affirmative action. Seek intellectual stimulation. Don't give way to self-doubt about a romantic situation. Heart-to-heart talks bring positive results. Be willing to vary routine.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) Friends and money don't mix favorably. You may want to catch up on some office work. New friends make for an interesting week. To avert misunderstandings, double check with a higher-up. Sports and exercise prove invigorating. A new work opportunity may arise.

© 1990 by King Features Synd.

DEAR DIANE

by Diane Van Arsdale

DEAR DIANE

I've been working for a large architectural firm for five years, and a short time ago, I was up for a promotion. When the promotion came about, I felt I was passed by. My boss told me in no uncertain terms why. First of all, I want to mention that I'm a woman, and so is my boss, but she told me that I was too fat, very unattractive, actually ugly, and dressed poorly. I was fine for the position I now hold in an office in the back where the clients don't actually see me. I didn't show her how hurt I was, but I was crushed. My self-esteem now is at low. I know I'm overweight, but I do what I can to look as good as possible. The new woman they hired from the outside is all the things my boss wanted. She is very well dressed, in shape, and has beautiful features. She is very good at the position, and we've even become friends, but she herself told that when she was interviewed by my boss, she told her that she needed someone like her who dressed well, and could lure gentlemen clients into our firm to design their buildings. I may not be the most attractive woman, and granted, I don't have the best clothes, but I dress as well as I can, and am competent in the position. What do you suggest. I do? The new woman said she would testify against her on my behalf as she herself thinks it's terrible what she said to me. She said she wouldn't even mind if she lost her job over this, as she doesn't like working for someone who would treat another human being as cruelly as she did. I would like to take legal action against her. The only problem is, I can't afford to lose my job. I have a family to support by myself as I'm a divorced mother

HELP

DEAR HELP:

The first step I would take is to go to your boss' superior with the new employee and relate the story. There's fodder here for a major discrimination lawsuit, and I'm sure her superior would like to know that. The woman should be dismissed for her actions, at the very least. As for you, I would only take legal action if your firm doesn't back you up and takes her side. I realize you fear for your job, so I suggest you consult with a lawyer on all the fine points of such a suit.

DEAR DEX

by Dexter Dyer

DEAR DEX

I believe my son's best friend, our neighbor's boy, is being abused. I can't prove it, but all the signs are there. He lives with his father, since the boy's mother passed away. The signs I see are bruises all over the kid, and the boy seems to have problems walking properly. It's as if he were sore in very private areas. He also gets very defensive if we ask him if there's something wrong, or if he's been to see a doctor.

Just last week, our new puppy wet the floor, so my husband raised his hand with a newspaper to discipline the dog, and the boy jumped back with such a rear-end jolt that it was obvious to us that the father beats the child, besides molesting him. Last night, my husband and I told my son we wanted to talk to him, and then his friend. Our son said that he complains that the father does indeed hit him, and has sex with him. He asked my son to never mention it to anyone. We also talked to the boy ourselves, and he said he is to mind our own business, that things would just get worse for him, and he would end up going to a foster home. I'm sure that's what he's afraid of, losing his home, but my God, I would think anything would be better than being abused. How can I go about this matter, and help this boy?

CONCERNED

DEAR CONCERNED:

You have no other choice but to report the suspected abuse to your local social services or child welfare agency. They will conduct an investigation into the matter. In the interim, the child will probably go to a foster home, but as you pointed out, it's better than being abused. Oddly enough, children who are being abused still show a great deal of love for their abusive parents. They simply don't know any better. There's also a great deal of fear of the unknown on the part of the child.

You may want to consider volunteering to care for this child yourself. I don't know the legalities of it, but you can inquire once it's determined that he must be removed from his home. However, regardless of your decision on that score, please waste no time in reporting this. The child's life is in danger.

Soap Updates by Seli Groves

ALL MY CHILDREN: David made a casual remark to Ceara about her spending habits, setting off a major tiff. Ceara, meanwhile, continued to sit for Jeremy's portrait of her. Erica was torn over her love stable home life. Adam and Natalie reacted to the news of Dixie's remarriage to Ted in his own inimitable style, planning a wedding for Charlie. Brent returned to Pine Valley to attend the nuptials. **Wait To See:** Trevor's life takes a new turn.

ANOTHER WORLD: Marley told Cass that Jake could be her and she may be pregnant. Iris realized Jamie is in Paulina. Jamie was forced to operate on Jake via video link to Jake's snowbound penthouse. Rachel had a passing thought that Paulina might be the guilty one. Olivia seethed with jealousy when she learned Sam was snowbound with Amanda and Al. Dean learned of Cass' nefarious past and the two shared a first moment of mutual respect. Vicky stole Ryan's key to the evidence room to get hold of the gun in an effort to help Marley. **Wait To See:** Olivia's plan to keep Sam and Amanda apart takes on an unexpected complication.

AS THE WORLD TURNS: Barbara tried to keep out of Darryl's way. Lucinda saw John and Susan having dinner together. Henry chastised Holden for deserting Angel. Tonia was unhappy when Ralph got Jessica to handle his contract with him. Angel planned to make her analyst believe she was going to kill herself if Holden tries to divorce her. Margo promised John she'll take leave from work after the New Year. Caleb asked Cal to hire a detective to find Julie. Holden and Lilly were unaware they were being watched by the man in the ski mask. **Wait To See:** Duncan and Lucinda come up with a new twist in their plan against Tonia.

BOLD & THE BEAUTIFUL: Jake was shaken by his father's heart attack. Ben's brother, Charlie, was at his bedside. Stephanie told Thorne she was certain Brooke named Ridge as godfather to keep her ties to him strong and unbroken. After her lawyer tipped her that the judge was about to rule in Eric's favor, Stephanie told Eric she'd give him the divorce in exchange for his and Brooke's friendship. John insisted on telling Clarke she loves him, and he insisted on reminding her that he would never hurt his relationship with baby **Wait To See:** Margo is in for at least two shocking revelations.

DAYS OF OUR LIVES: Shane learned Kimberly had filed for divorce. Jennifer realized she needed help to deal with the rage. Lawrence, still grieving over Leo's death, told Gregory he's moving to a different neighborhood. Emilio denied to Justin that he had anything to do with Nick's murder. Nick's will provided that Eve must marry or lose her inherit his money, and that Julie would be the one to assess the relationship. April told Johnny she sent Nick a letter which could make her a suspect if Eve got hold of it. Carly and Bo confronted Lawrence in the hospital. **Wait To See:** Jennifer makes a decision that will affect several lives.

GENERAL HOSPITAL: Edge admitted he was an impostor. Robert extended the release date for the diamonds so a Jerome heir can be located. Alan planned to expose Scott's double dealings if he's called on the carpet over the diamonds. Edge played up to Dawn in hopes she'd bankroll his video with Frisco. Hobbie fretted that Cheryl will reveal she and Johnny are Lucas' parents in order to claim the jewels. Convinced she won't get the diamonds, Lucy called in the FBI who confiscated the stones for Victor's back taxes. **Wait To See:** Shep has suspicions that won't go away.

GENERATIONS: Taylor told Jordan the "family" needed a place in Barcelona for money-laundering, and reminded him they were kin. Sam was shocked to find the Ming vase in Jordan's private gallery and even more shocked to find Jordan had been tracking her down. Corelli told Kyle Jordan was bankrolled by his late mother, a stripper named Honey, who got her money from a rich mobster boyfriend. Taylor revealed that Peter had testified against him and Jordan's father. Jordan warned Sam if she tries to avenge their marriage, she'll be signing her father's death warrant. **Wait To See:** Kyle worries that Sam may become a "sacrificial" lamb.

GUIDING LIGHT: Mindy told Mallet to stay in town and find Gary Swanson. The hearing ended with Rick being barred from practicing medicine. Mindy asked him to come to work for her. A tearful Harley said goodbye to Marah. Henry arranged to bring a dubious Alex to a meeting at which Roger tried to raise ransom money for Blake. Alan Michael escaped from the hospital after learning Gary was holding Blake. Billy was pulled over for driving while intoxicated on his way to the bank for the ransom money. **Wait To See:** Rick tries to see a chance for a new life in spite of her physical problems.

LOVING: Paul found Louie badly beaten and close to death. Tracker returned from San Felipe and reported to Clay that everything at the factory was running well. Dane tried to get Shana to drop the investigation of the plane crash. Paul was angry at Stevie whom he blamed for his father's beating. Kate remained at Louie's bedside as his family hung in the balance. **Wait To See:** Shana's adversary decides to end her interference once and for all.

ONE LIFE TO LIVE: Clint took Viki to their New York City honeymoon spot where she danced her first steps since her stroke. Carlo and Gabrielle made a deal involving the tapes. Carlo planned to have Viki taken home out. Tina told Cord she's moving to a nearby apartment. She hired Jake to keep Carlo away from her and her unborn child. Greg planted cocaine on Dan Mat was curious about the videotape. **Wait To See:** Max takes steps that could imperil Gabrielle's plans.

SANTA BARBARA: Keith almost caught Cruz and Eden burying her gun in the back yard. Gina snooped around and discovered that Kelly can work Mason and Julia argued over visitation rights with Sami. Keith took Flame to Quinn's place to learn where the hidden passages are in exchange for a more favorable deal for her. Keith arrested Kelly after finding her fingerprints on her sister's gun. On her way to the police station Eden was injured in a car crash. Julia told Augusta Dash had raped her. Gina was worried the Cupids would "nail" Keith before Keith "nailed" Kelly. **Wait To See:** Eden's life hangs in the balance as the case against Kelly grows stronger.

YOUNG & THE RESTLESS: Another specialist warned Jack Nikki had no chance to recover without surgery. Nikki, however, insisted she'd fight it and not risk being paralyzed. To Traci's surprise, Cassandra announced she was the new owner of the publishing company and planned to send Traci on a whirlwind promotional tour around the country. Before Lauren could tell him she's pregnant with their child, Scott blurted out that he's the father of Sheila's unborn baby. In Hawaii, as David and Nina prepared to go to dinner on the yacht with Dangerous Cricket, David feigned illness and told Nina to go without him, leaving him a chance to spend the evening with Diane. To his surprise, Nina decided to stay with him instead. **Wait To See:** David keeps up the pressure on Nina to let him adopt little Philip.

GETTING PERSONAL: JOHN APREA — Lucas, "Another World," Born: March 19 in Ridgewood, New Jersey; Married: One Daughter; First Big Break: Role of Tommy, "Dallas" father II." Previous Series: "Full House," "Knots Landing," "Falcon Crest," "Matt Houston," "Montefusco." Hobbies: Reading, writing, fishing.

© 1990 by King Features Synd.

Home hints

LONE THERMOS — I have found a use for those thermos bottles left alone when the children's lunch boxes can no longer be used. I had several of these thermoses on hand and needed to find a good use for them since, unlike the lunch boxes, they were in good condition.

I now put them to good use by filling them with the kids' favorite drinks. And, when we travel during these cold winter months, they each take along a thermos of warm chocolate milk to sip on. Beatrice J., Syracuse, N.Y.

COFFEE SAVER — I have an easy way to save money on coffee. I make the first pot in our drip coffee maker with the regular amount of ground coffee. I leave the grounds in the pot, and then for the second pot of coffee, I put half the normal amount of ground coffee on top of them and brew as usual.

For the third pot, however, I throw everything out and start all over. Economy is great, but if you carry it too far, you lose fresh coffee flavor, and that is what we drink it for! Elsa B., Sedan, Kan.

UTENSILS — I've found that kitchen utensils can serve many more purposes than those they were designed for. I use my pastry blender to chop hard-boiled egg yolks for deviled eggs. An old pastry brush with a long handle does a super job of cleaning out the deep lint trap in my dryer. Lorraine C., Red Oak, Iowa

CLOSET ORGANIZATION — I have from time to time read hints in your column on closet organization. I thought I would pass along some of my favorites.

I hang matching blouses and slacks on one hanger to save space. Items that I don't wear very often go in storage units that fit underneath the bed.

I use stackable, clear boxes for all my accessories. I also color-code all of my clothing.

This makes choosing clothes for work or play much easier. These simple tips help me keep my closet organized and clutter-free. Ada V., Washington, D.C.

MESSY MEASURING CUP — I only use liquid laundry detergents. After measuring the required amount and dumping it in the machine, I am left with a messy, drippy cup.

But now I have found a solution. When I am dumping the detergent in the machine, I simply toss in the plastic cup too. Presto! No messy cup to contend with when the load is finished. Robin E., Hoseville, Minn.

Coupon Corner

by Rose Lynn

Here are this week's offers:

CLAIROL REBATE, P.O. Box 14906, Baltimore, Md. 21208 (receive $5.00). Buy one of the following Clairol Dryers: F.P.I. Clairol Salon Power 1500 Pro; MP-1 Clairol Salon Power 1500 Mid size pro SG-1, Clairol Son-of-a-Green Turbo, or DG-1 Clairol Dry Guy styler. Send in the UPC symbol from the carton, along with your original cash register receipt dated between July 1, 1990 and December 31, 1990. If you wish to participate in more than one Clairol promotion, you must submit the certificate required for each promotion. Store form required. Must be postmarked by 1/31/91.

FRUIT OF THE LOOM, P.O. Box 4114, Monticello, Minn. 55365-4114 (receive up to $4). Offer good on all Men's, Boys', Ladies', Girls' and/or Toddler styles of Fruit of the Loom socks in three-pack, six-pack or 10-packs. Send in the appropriate number of UPC symbol and your cash register receipt. For $1, send one three-pack UPC. For $2, send in proof of purchases from two three-packs or one six-pack. For $4, send in POPs from four three-packs or two six-packs or one 10-pack. Store form required. Offer expires 1/15/91.

SALON TROPICS REBATE, P.O. Box 3161, Lowell, Mass. 01853-3161 (receive $3 cash plus $3 in coupons). Buy one of the following Jheri Redding products: Salon Tropics or Professional Peach Shampoo or Conditioner, any formula. Send in your cash register tape with purchase price circled. On the form, accurately fill in the five-digit number listed underneath the UPC bar code in the space provided. Store form required. Expires 12/31/90.

DOWNY"ALL DOGS GO TO HEAVEN" REFUND OFFER, P.O. Box 410369, El Paso, Texas 88541-0369 (receive $5). Buy "All Dogs Go To Heaven" videocassette before January 31, 1991, and one any size Downy Liquid or Downy Sheets or Downy Refill. Send in both end flaps from Downy sheets or the cash register tape with purchase price circled for Downy Liquid and the UPC number from the bottle written on the back of the receipt or third micro statement from the one carton of Downy Refills. Also, send your store receipt from your purchase of "All Dogs Go To Heaven" plus the UPC symbol from the purchase of the videocassette. Store form required. Offer expires 1/31/91.

Paint & Household

by Bob D'Angelo

Q. I have grease on a nylon rug tracked in from the driveway, and I would like to know how to remove it. The rug is protected with Scotch Guard. I am afraid this stain is too powerful for it. Any hints would be appreciated. G.S.

A. "Oops." It's what you say when you spill it, and what you use when you want to clean it up. Oops is primarily a latex paint remover made by New York Bronze Powder Co. According to the can, Oops will remove tar, lipstick, shoe polish, ball point ink, magic marker, oil, grease, crayons, etc.

Always test an inconspicuous area first, then saturate a rag, and blot onto the stain. Do not pour directly onto the carpet as it may damage the glue backing.

Q. Can latex paint be used for wall glazing? P.L.

A. Yes, first let me explain wall glazing to the readers who are not familiar with it. Glazing is a fancy paint finish that combines an opaque base coat of a color covered by a transparent top coat of a different color or tone, and then having the top coat removed in such a fashion that it creates a beautiful painted finish that can span the very subtle to an extremely dramatic look. We prefer using plastic wrap lightly rolled, then pouncing the applied area.

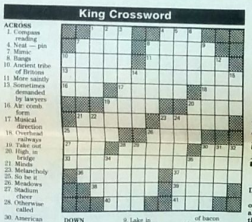
When we use latex paint, we take one third paint, one third Floetrol paint additive, and one third latex urethane for the formula. Apply with a roller over semi-gloss base coat, keeping a wet edge, and then pounce with a plastic wrap.

Q. What is the best way to clean brushes and rollers? I buy good products, yet no matter how hard I try to clean them, there's always a paint accumulation. T.K.

A. If you do a lot of painting, you may want to invest in a spinner, which will effectively clean both brushes and rollers. First, when you clean rollers, use the notched end of the paint stirrers that you get with each can of paint that you buy, and scrape all excess paint off. Wash the roller, and then spin it inside a paper bag for two reasons. A spinning roller resembles a wet dog drying off; secondly, you don't deposit paint back into the environment.

The spinner works the same way with paint brushes. However, you should try to work the paint out of the heel of the brush. I rarely use a roller for oil base paints, but when I do, I will wrap the roller in plastic wrap and put it in the refrigerator until the job is done, then throw the roller away. It's just not worth the risk of having a spot of paint from a previous job start to work itself up on a current job.

King Crossword



ACROSS
1. Cooking utensil
4. Veal pin
7. Mass
8. Bangs
10. Ancient tribe of Britons
11. More shaggy
13. Sometimes given by lawyers
16. Air crash form
17. Musical direction
18. Overhead railways
19. Take out
20. High, in music
21. Middle
23. Melancholy
25. So be it
26. Meadows
27. Stadium cheer
28. Otherwise, called
30. American author
33. Alliteration, of a sort
36. "Peanuts" newsboy
37. Newfoundland
39. Heath
40. Lewis
43. Capital of Yemen
44. Ending for gain
45. Hubcaps

DOWN
1. Missile weapon
2. Swiss herdsman
3. Chicago baseball field
4. On high
5. Burst of cheers
6. French "girlfriend"
7. Dull pain
9. Cluttered
10. Lake in New York
11. River in Peru
12. Sovereign
14. Cougers
15. Letter
16. Lair
20. Roman bronze
21. Nebraska Indian
22. Conduct oneself
23. Unwilling to listen
24. Servings
25. Circle segment
26. Service club members
28. Metal tag
29. Stores
30. Filmdom's Ryan and Robert
31. Killer whale
32. Greek letter
34. Fish of a wheel
35. Noted canal

Travel

by John Amantea

Grandtravel's 1991 tour for grandparents and grandchildren, expanded to 15, introduces new destinations new to the program — Russia, the Galapagos Islands and New England. A tour of the French countryside, mainly by barge, has also been added.

All Grandtravel tours provide for grandparents and grandchildren to travel in groups of at least 20 so that each generation can enjoy the company of its peer group with whom to share activities and experiences.

The company has consulted with education specialists so that each itinerary enhances school social studies programs, and on each, every child is given a travel guide written for children.

The visit to Russia concentrates on the historic sites of Moscow and Leningrad, centered on a 13-night itinerary with stays in Lappland — Santa Claus Village, on the Arctic Circle — Helsinki, Copenhagen and the Danish village of Billund, site of the miniature world of Legoland. Some of the attractions of mainland Ecuador — Indian markets in the Andes, Cotapaxi National Park, Quito — precede a cruise in the Galapagos aboard the 34-passenger, deluxe Isabella 2. The new French tour, beginning in Paris, takes the train to Dijon to join the barge Jaime at Montceau-les-Mines on the Canal du Centre for a six-night cruise back to Dijon via the Seine River and the Burgundy Canal.

"A New England Journey of Witches, Whales and Maple Sugar" moves from Boston via Salem and Kennebunkport to Boothbay Harbor, swings through the White and Green Mountains and returns to the coast at Hyannis by way of Lexington and Concord. Visits to Provincetown and Plymouth complete the itinerary.

Pet Care

by Cleo & Brad Conrad

For a large part of the country, winter is just about settling in. This means that pet owners must take appropriate action to safeguard their animals against the pitfalls of the season.

One of the most dangerous things to animals in the wintertime is antifreeze. Animals are attracted to this sweet, sticky substance and will ingest it when they form under cars. Even a small amount of this substance is lethal to cats, dogs and cats who are allowed to roam free, they will often drink antifreeze simply because it's the only liquid which doesn't freeze in cold weather. The result is fatal.

We've often warned against letting dogs and cats roam free because of the general danger of getting hit by cars or attacked by other animals or sick people. In the winter, there's even more reason to keep your animals home.

Also, be considerate of those poor animals who are the other people's. Check your car for any antifreeze leaks and make sure they're sealed. Even if you garage your car, you should do this since your own pets might get into the garage and lick up any leaking antifreeze.

By the time an animal is displaying such symptoms of poisoning by vomiting, it is usually too late. The toxicity has reached the lethal level, and the animal can't be saved. Thus, prevention is the best policy here.

Antiques and Collecting

by Ralph & Terry Kovel

THE CHOPPING BLOCK

by Philomena Corradeno

Hanukkah is a time for sweets. This year, celebrate with a Fig Appleasance Cake. Using traditional ingredients such as dried figs, nuts and spices, eat it unfrosted or topped with icing.

Because California dried figs are a natural moistening agent, the cake may be baked a day or two ahead and retain its fresh flavor and texture.

FIG APPLESAUCE CAKE WITH LAST MINUTE TOPPING

¼ cup shortening
1 cup sugar
2 eggs
1½ cups sifted, all-purpose flour
1 teaspoon salt
1 teaspoon baking soda
½ teaspoon cinnamon
½ teaspoon nutmeg
1 cup sweetened applesauce
½ cup chopped walnuts
1 cup California dried figs, chopped
***Frosting, optional**

Preheat oven to 350F. Cream shortening; gradually add sugar, creaming until light. Add eggs; beat until fluffy. Sift flour, salt, soda, cinnamon and nutmeg. Alternate with applesauce and dry ingredients to creamed mixture. Beat after each addition. Stir in nuts and figs. Pour into greased and lightly floured (nine-inch) cake pans. Bake for 45 minutes, or until a cake tester comes out clean. Cool on wire rack for 10 minutes. Top with frosting (recipe follows), if desired.

LAST-MINUTE TOPPING

¼ lb. powdered sugar
½ cup butter, softened
½ cup brown sugar, packed
6 tablespoons sour cream
1 teaspoon vanilla
1 cup stewed California dried figs, chopped
½ cup chopped pecans

Furniture, like people, has first and last names. The last name could be "chair", "table", or even "chest of drawers". We learn these names as children. Some of the first names are "Siberian", "Mission", or "Chippendale". Just as one can recognize a friend by his facial features, eye color, or the shape of his nose, antique experts can recognize furniture by its special features.

Hepplewhite is a style that was popular in the United States from 1780 to 1820. The excavations at Pompeii inspired European designers to make new furniture in a new simple style. A Hepplewhite chest of drawers had plain surfaces with simple inlay and straight short legs with just a suggestion of feet. They usually were four drawers, with the smallest at the top. The brass hardware on the drawers was oval or drop-shaped. We can identify this type of chest by its first and last name.

. . .

Q. My 12-inch-high statue seems to be made of plaster. It is called "Little Drummer Boy." He has curly hair, a frock and a drum. He is holding a puppy in his arms, and there is another dog at his feet. It is marked "Hennecke's Statuettes." Can you please tell me something about it?

A. Casper Hennecke was born in Westphalia (Germany) in 1833. He moved to Ohio and started making stoneware in 1860. He hired Polish artists Wagner and founded C. Hennecke & Company in Milwaukee, Wisconsin in 1881. The company made a line of "Bisque Ware" that was made of a plaster-like compound. Some of the figures were made with a natural stone-color finish or in a variety of colored finishes including white, cream, white or silver. They also made "alabaster" figures that were made from molded powdered alabaster in gelatine. Hennecke figures were produced until 1960. After that, the company began making ornamental iron and steel.

. . .

TIP: Advertising card collectors should be careful how the cards are displayed. Don't use the photo albums that have plastic overlay sheets with a sticky cardboard backing (sometimes called "magnetic" albums). The cards will stick and the backs will be ruined. Pure pharmacy acetone, carefully dipped under the corner of the card, will help free it with minimal damage. Do not use nail polish remover.

Betty Boop

Flash Gordon

George

Prof. Phumble

Flop Family

Popeye